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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR  | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.    | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 10/072,747  | 02/07/2002  | Michael David Rabbett | 501377                 | 2974             |
| 7590  | 01/21/2005  |                       | EXAMINER               |                  |
| MICHAEL D. SCHUMANN<br>MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.<br>PP.O BOX 2903<br>MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903 |             |                       | FAYYAZ, NASHMIYA SAQIB |                  |
|   |             |                       | ART UNIT               | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                       | 2856                   |                  |

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                |                  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.                | Applicant(s)     |  |
|                              | 10/072,747                     | RABBETT ET AL.   |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Nashmiya S. Fayyaz | Art Unit<br>2856 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 and 29-55 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 1-6,9 and 11-18,23,24, 29-33 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 7,8,10,19-22 and 25-27 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 7, 8, 10, 19-22, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 7, the claim is unclear since claim 1 recites that the gas generator already has a water reservoir. In claim 8, "said both" on line 1 is unclear and lacks antecedent basis. In claim 10, on line 1, "said each" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 19-22, "said ambient temperature" on lines 8 and 2 lacks antecedent basis. In claim 25, since claim 1 already recites the *same features* for the **gas generator** assembly, many instances of **lack of clear** antecedent basis has been created such as on line 3, "said can" or "said water reservoir" or on lines 4-5, "said can", "said bottom disk", on line 5, "said at least one aperture", on line 6, "said hydrophobic layer" (note that this list includes only examples of lack of clear antecedent basis and is not all inclusive such that a complete review and revision of the claims is necessary). In claim 26, "said diffusion layer" and "said hydrophobic layer" on lines 1-2 lacks clear antecedent basis. In claim 27, "said electrode assembly" lacks clear antecedent basis.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 8, 10, 19-22, and 25-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Claims 7, 8, 10, 19-22, and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

4. This application contains claims 34-55 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in Paper No. 4/2/04. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

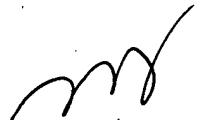
5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nashmiya S. Fayyaz whose telephone number is 571-272-2192. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays and Thursdays.

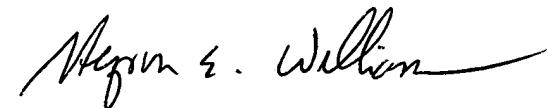
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on 571-272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



NFayyaz  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2856

nf  
1/10/05



HEZRON WILLIAMS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800